

## Rumsfeld visits with Airmen at Balad Air Base

By Maj. Regina Winchester  
332nd AEW Public Affairs

COMBINED AIR OPERATIONS CENTER - Secretary of Defense Donald H. Rumsfeld visited with the men and women of Balad Air Base/Logistics Support Area Anaconda Wednesday, addressing Airmen and Soldiers in a town hall forum on the base.

Following thunderous applause, Secretary Rumsfeld's speech began with a thank you to the Airmen and Soldiers present. "I'm profoundly grateful for your service and sacrifice, and to your families and loved ones who sacrifice as well," he said.

"We call on you to do things we've never asked of you before. We ask you to simultaneously be a warrior, a humanitarian, and a diplomat – sometimes outside your career field, and sometimes even outside your service. And you serve with professionalism, dedication and humor, which continue to be the hallmark of American fighting men and women."

Secretary Rumsfeld mentioned the great work being done by the Airmen

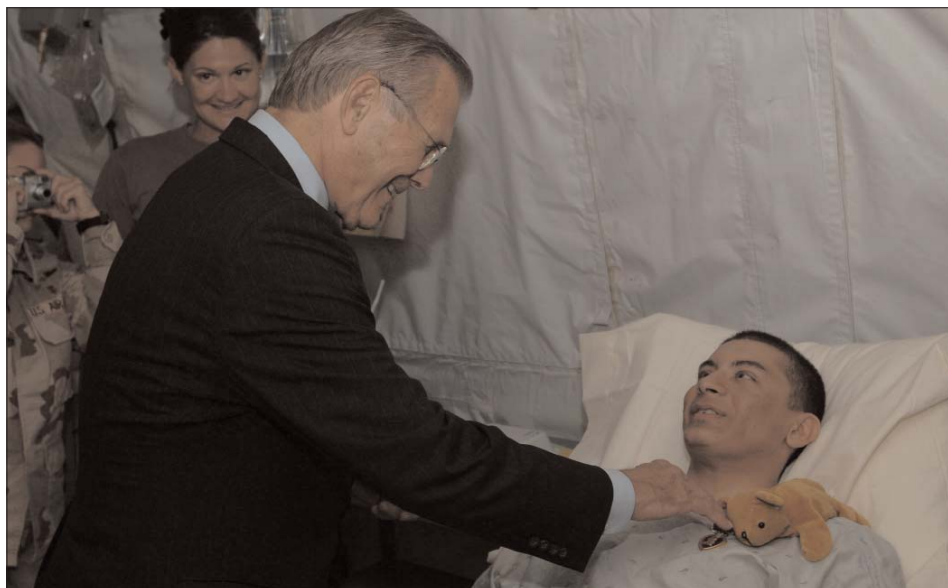


Photo by Staff Sgt. Chad Chisholm

**Secretary of Defense Donald H. Rumsfeld presents Private First Class Richard Leal with a Purple Heart at the Air Force theater hospital Wednesday.**

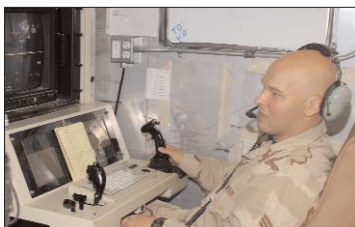
working with the Army every day to up-armor vehicles for convoys outside the wire, and the medical staff at the Air Force theater hospital, treating American, coalition and Iraqi patients every day.

"The 332nd Expeditionary Medical Group provides care comparable to the

finest facility in the United States, and you're doing it right here in the middle of Iraq," Secretary Rumsfeld said. Specifically addressing the care they provide to Iraqi military and civilians, some

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### Watching from above



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### Hospital saving lives



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### Top notch performance



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Photo by Staff Sgt. Chad Chisholm

## Predator operators see the whole picture

By Senior Airman **Shaun Emery**  
332nd AEW Public Affairs

Each Predator mission flown in the skies of Iraq begins and ends at Balad Air Base. Predator operators deployed here put the aircraft in the air and make sure it lands safely. Sitting side by side in the "cockpit," enlisted and officers work as a team providing top cover to soldiers on the ground.

Pilots and sensor operators for the 46th Expeditionary Reconnaissance Squadron here each play a key role in the successful Predator mission. While technology allows pilots to control the aircraft from the States, Predator take-offs must be controlled from Balad.

"We are the launch and recovery element for all predator missions over Iraq," said Maj. Matt Martin, 46th ERS commander. "It's our job to ensure that 100 percent of CENTAF's Predator taskings are completed."

While in the air, Predator aircraft are remotely piloted by Predator operations center members at Nellis Air Force Base, Nev.

A unique aspect of the 46th ERS mission is that enlisted Airmen and officers work together every mission. The pilot's main mission is to fly the plane, while the sensor operator controls the cameras that bring the battlefield into full

view to gain intelligence.

Unlike other missions, pilots here only control the plane during landing and take-off. But because of technological issues, that part of the mission becomes essential.

"Getting those planes in the air and back on the ground ensures our mission success," said Major Martin. "It's different sitting at the controls here and not actually in the aircraft, but we adapted quickly to get the mission done."

Airman 1st Class Felisha Rexford, a sensor operator for the 46th ERS, said her deployment has been an unforgettable experience.

"This is the only job where enlisted members get to be co-pilots with officers," she said. "I've learned so much about flying sitting beside them during missions."

Sensor operators do much more than watch the feedback from their cameras. Working together with pilots, they do pre-flight checks, coordinate with the air control tower and provide feedback to pilots. They also keep an open dialogue with POC operators back at Nellis.

"The sensor operators make our job much easier," said Major Martin. "They know everything that's going on with the aircraft at all times."

After the aircraft takes off from Balad, the fun really starts, said Senior Airman Justin Warnack, 46th ERS sensor operator.

"We can see everything from up there," he said. Airman Warnack has been working with the Predators for the past three years and has seen the aircraft's abilities change from reconnaissance to battlefield support.

Predator aircraft are armed with two Laser-guided Hellfire missiles. When ground support is needed, sensor operators use laser guidance to pinpoint the precise location to place a munition. When the pilot pulls the trigger, he knows the munitions are on target.

"It's an amazing feeling to know that we are giving support to the troops on the ground," said Airman Rexford. "It's the most satisfying part of our mission here."

Photo by Senior Airman **Shaun Emery**

**A Predator sensor operator goes over pre-flight checks prior to a mission in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.**

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The deadline for all editorial submissions is noon the Friday prior to the date of publication.



# Airmen, Soldiers care for Iraqi patients

By Senior Airman **Chawntain Sloan**  
Multi-National Corps - Iraq Public Affairs

Only a few hours earlier, surgeons were avidly working to save his life and repair the damage that a bullet caused when it entered his abdomen and ricocheted throughout his body.

Now, the 11-year-old Iraqi boy sleeps peacefully with his favorite stuffed animal clutched in his hand. His father sits in a chair next to his bed, staring at the boy with a fixed gaze, grateful for the miracle and anxious for his son to wake up.

"There are no words," said Hussein, the boy's father, with a smile and a sigh of relief. "Thank you. You saved my son."

But for the staff of U.S. Air Force, U.S. Army and Australian Defense Force professionals at the Air Force Theater Hospital at Balad Air Base, Iraq, those are the only words that matter.

The medics, technicians, nurses and doctors assigned to the combat support hospital provide expert care to anyone who walks or is wheeled through their hospital doors.

Although the hospital was primarily established to treat coalition troops, Department of Defense employees and contract civilians, the bulk of the patients



Photo by Staff Sgt. Chad Chisholm

**Captain Alejandr Davila, 332nd Expeditionary Medical Group, maintains a soldier's airway post-operation at Balad.**

that fill the wards on a daily basis are Iraqis.

With three operating rooms, three wards, two intensive care units, a fully-equipped emergency room, and substantial pharmacy, lab and x-ray capabilities, it's no secret that the hospital boasts of

some of the best medical staff and services.

"We perform most of the same major procedures that a stateside hospital does — general, orthopedic, vascular, neurologi-

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## RUMSFELD, from Page 1

from right outside the gates of Balad Air Base, the Secretary added, "You have touched the lives of thousands. These relationships are important - nowhere more important than right here."

Following his town hall appearance, Secretary Rumsfeld visited the Air Force theater hospital. There he met with Air Force and Army doctors, nurses and medical technicians, and stopped into several wards to speak with American, coalition and Iraqi military patients.

In one ward, he stopped to talk to Soldiers who had just been medically evacuated to the hospital earlier today, and presented four Purple Hearts to the wounded Soldiers.

"Our mission here is to help create an environment where democratically elected Iraqi government can contain and eventually defeat insurgents," said Secretary Rumsfeld. "It will not be easy. You all are part of a mission which has liberated 50 million people in Iraq and Afghanistan, helping to build a better future. Your work is important work, and it is noble work. It will benefit future generations, and it will not be forgotten."



Photo by Staff Sgt. Chad Chisholm

**Secretary of Defense Donald H. Rumsfeld greets Airmen and Soldiers here during a visit Wednesday. Secretary Rumsfeld addressed troops in a town hall forum, and visited the Air Force theater hospital, where the medical staff treats American, coalition and Iraqi military and Iraqi civilian patients every day.**



Members of Tops in Blue performed their program "And the Beat Goes On" at the Sustainer Theater here Monday.

The group is on a tour performing for servicemembers throughout the area of responsibility.



(Above) Senior Airman David Carr from Lackland Air Force Base, Texas, sings to an Airman in the crowd during Monday's performance. (Left) Staff Sgt. Fernando Alejandro from MacDill AFB, Fla., entertains the crowd with a solo performance during the show.





Photo by Capt. Kelly Sams

## A dining-in delicacy

Members of the 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing fill the grog bowl with an unknown substance during the formal dining-in Saturday at Town Hall. Members of the wing gathered to honor the legacy of the Tuskegee Airman. The day marked the anniversary of the opening of Tuskegee Air Field, where the first Tuskegee pilots trained.

## Aggregation helps Airmen get home

By Tech. Sgt. J. LaVoie  
506th Air Expeditionary Group Public Affairs

KIRKUK AIR BASE, Iraq — Most every deployed Airmen can tell you how far along they are in their rotation and when they expect to return home, though until recently that date was mostly speculation. Now, thanks to aggregation, Airmen will know exactly when their replacement is coming, and when they will leave.

Central Command Air Forces has implemented a new program that will allow them to see when incoming Airmen are supposed to arrive and therefore when departing Airmen should leave.

This program isn't completely new; it is how they scheduled airmen to arrive in theater during the last few rotations.

"They did such a great job of getting people over here during the last AEF, they are taking it one step further," said Col. Scott Mason, 506th Air Expeditionary Group commander. "This adds pre-

dictability for Airmen, so they can let families and loved ones back in the States know when they are getting home."

Once the time phase force deployment data sheet is locked, and unit deployment managers start giving Airmen the dates they are going home, those dates are unlikely to change.

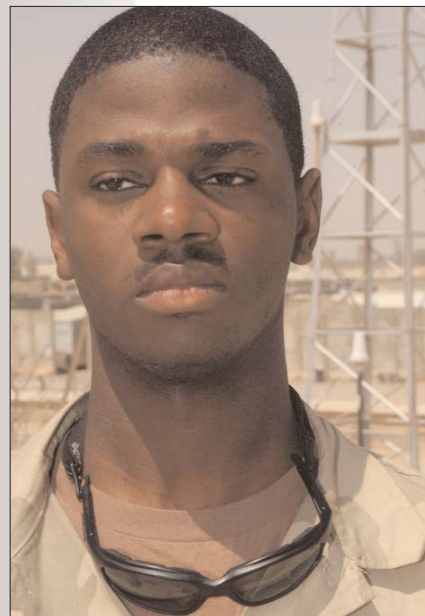
"We don't want Airmen making life-altering decisions based on the dates, but short of an aircraft breaking, they will move out of here in a two-day window and then leave the hub within two days," said Tech. Sgt. Lois Harm, 506th Expeditionary Logistics Squadron. "There will be a seat out of here, and out of the hub, with your name on it."

This means, barring a broken aircraft, Airmen should return home within five days from the date they are given by their UDM.

For more information, contact your base logistics readiness squadron.

## BALAD AIR BASE UNIFORM TIPS

Sunglasses will only be worn around the neck, not on top of the head.



**Right**



**Wrong**

**HOSPITAL**, from Page 3

cal, urological, maxillofacial and eye surgeries – but we are not designed for long-term care,” said Lt. Col. Laurie Hall, assigned to the 332nd Expeditionary Medical Group and deployed from 59th Training Squadron at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas.

While many of the patients treated at the hospital are civilians caught in the crossfire or Iraqi military fighting for their freedom, some are the very insurgents who initiated the attack. But no matter who the patients are or where they are from, the staff’s goal is to make sure their patients leave in better shape than they arrived in.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Chad Chisholm

**Captain Michelle Bush, 332nd Expeditionary Medical Group, with caring hands cleans the wounds of a patient at Balad Air Base, Iraq.**

Colonel Hall recalled a recent case of an insurgent who was brought to the hospital after an improvised explosive device detonated during an attempt to set a trap for a convoy.

“No one else was hurt but him, and the very people he was trying to kill – the Soldiers from the convoy – are the ones who initiated first aid and gave their own blood to save his life,” said Colonel Hall.

She said the surgeons were “amazingly able to piece him back together, but he has a long, painful road of recovery ahead.”

However, it is important for the hospital staff to remember that prisoners are not ordinary patients.

All prisoners must be kept under guard and blindfolded to protect the hospital staff and other patients.

“It doesn’t matter that you just saved their life, they don’t care,” she said. “It is a really hard concept to grasp as a nurse because it’s not the way we are trained. It’s really hard not to let your guard down.”

Unfortunately, as is the case with some critically injured patients, the staff’s best efforts aren’t always enough to save a patient’s life. And for the medics, technicians, nurses and doctors who fought for that patient, the news is often devastating.

“There was one 24-year-old Pakistani man who was brought to us from another

location. He was terribly sick when we got him and though we tried our very best, he died. The nurse who had worked so hard on him just lost it. She burst into tears right there,” said Colonel Hall.

“You may be a nurse, but you’re a human first. You can’t help but feel. If you don’t feel, then there is something wrong.”

But the medical staff doesn’t let the tragic losses prevent them from celebrating their successes.

A shaved head and a sizeable scar are one Iraqi girl’s only clue that surgeons worked tirelessly to save her life and remove a rock that a near-fatal car accident left lodged in her brain. After about two weeks of recuperating, the girl, who is not more than 10 years old, is in good health and ready to go home – a testament that their efforts weren’t in vain.

“I’m amazed she even survived,” Colonel Hall said as she lightly stroked the girl’s foot. “The surgeons did an amazing job.”

It’s the quality of work that the medical professionals provide every day that makes the team and the quality of care exceptional. And they do it not because it’s their duty, but because they care.

“You can’t help but care about these people, and you want to do everything you can to make them better,” said Colonel Hall.

## Jump, sunset, spike

**Tech. Sgt. Edward Brown, 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing manpower office and member of team Alarm Dread, spikes the ball over the net during an intramural league volleyball game Tuesday.**



Photo by Senior Airman Tim Beckham



# Leadership never takes a day off

By Senior Master Sgt. **Graham Smith**  
332nd AEW first sergeant

I've heard it said too many times in too many different ways by Airmen and non-commissioned officers since I arrived at Balad in April, "It's my day off. Why can't someone else take care of it?" This mindset is heavily flawed under normal circumstances; while deployed in defense of your nation, it is just plain wrong.

Where does this mindset come from? How does it develop? Figuratively speaking, leadership never takes a day off, especially when a job needs done.

Good leaders are always on the job even when they are off. As military members, when there's a job to be done, we all need to check our attitude, make sound decisions, and trust that the task needs to be done.

We all feel internal conflict when called upon to do a task on our day off or when our shift is over. The conflict we feel is completely natural. In these instances, a military member must simply check their attitude.

For example, recently we received new bunk beds for the dorms. We are not placing these beds in the dorms with the individual in mind. These beds with stronger frames are important to sustain our operations over the long term.

This detail needed to get done during our rotation. For some this meant it had to get done on your day off. If you were one

who, when asked to help, decided to go to the pool instead of putting the beds in your dorm, then your attitude was selfish. Self-sacrifice is a leadership trait of professional Airmen.

Along with having the right attitude when duty calls, one of the most critical attributes for all Air Force members is the ability to make sound decisions, regardless of whether or not you think you are on duty or you feel it's not your job.

**“ The next time your boss tells you we need to accomplish this detail and it has to be done on your day off or when your shift is complete, don't become one of “them” who openly complain or avoid being tasked—just get it done.**

”

- Senior Master Sgt. Graham Smith  
332nd Expeditionary Wing first sergeant

The truth is you are always on duty and someone has to accomplish the task.

Last fall an individual in my squadron received courts-martial for attempted poisoning of her supervisor while she was deployed.

This Airman made the decision to poison her supervisor rather than just do what

was asked of her. She could have exercised her right to use her chain of command if she felt the tasks were unlawful. This Airman knew she had options but rather than doing the right thing, she made the wrong decision ... a choice that will affect the rest of her life.

Professionals understand there is a reason for every task, even if it seems absurd to you at the time. When asked to do a detail, lead by example.

Remember, it takes an incredible team effort to lay the foundation, improve the quality of life, and make it better for those who follow in our footsteps.

Thankfully, military personnel overwhelmingly put their personal needs aside when called on to do a job outside of their lane. These professionals do the job because they know it must be done.

The next time your boss tells you we need to accomplish this detail and it has to be done on your day off or when your shift is complete, don't become one of “them” who openly complain or avoid being tasked—just get it done. You will earn the respect of supervisors, peers and subordinates.

The mission simply depends on leaders who have the right attitude, make the right decisions, and have faith that the job needs to be done for the right reason.

Helen Keller said it best, “Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much.”

## Diamond notes

**As many Airmen reach the midway point in their rotations, it is important to stay vigilant, and take care of the people you work with.**

From the desk of the 332nd AEW first sergeant

## Balad AB Religious Schedule

### Protestant - Traditional

Sundays  
7:30 a.m. Hospital, 9:30 a.m. Provider Chapel, 11 a.m.

Freedom Chapel  
**Protestant - Gospel**

Sundays  
11 a.m. - Sustainer Indoor Theater, 11:30 Freedom Chapel, 7 p.m. - Provider Chapel

**Protestant- Praise and Worship**

Sundays  
9:30 a.m. Sustainer Indoor Theater, 10 a.m. Freedom Chapel, 5:30 p.m. Tuskegee Chapel, 6:30 p.m. MWR Tent 29th SPT BN

Wednesdays  
7 p.m. Freedom Chapel

**Protestant - Contemporary**

Sundays  
10 a.m. 299th FSB Tent Chapel, 11 a.m. Town Hall

**Latter Day Saints**

Sundays  
1p.m. Provider Chapel, 7 p.m. Tuskegee Chapel

**Liturgical- Protestant**

Sundays

8 a.m. Provider Chapel

**Samoan Congregational Service**

Sundays  
4 p.m. Provider Chapel

**Roman Catholic Mass**

Mondays - Fridays: 7 p.m. Tuskegee Chapel

Wednesdays

11 a.m. Air Force Hospital

Saturdays

5 p.m. Tuskegee Chapel (4:45 p.m. Reconciliation)

Sundays

8:30 a.m. Freedom Chapel, 9 a.m. Tuskegee Chapel, 11 a.m. Provider Chapel, 3:30 p.m. "626" Chapel (for Special Ops personnel only)

**Church of Christ**

Sunday

11 a.m. Aviation Village 1, 1-245 ATS/Conf. room

**Islamic Prayer**

Fridays

13:30 p.m. Provider Chapel

**Jewish Prayer**

Fridays

6:30 p.m. Provider Chapel Annex

## Meet your neighbor



Photo by Senior Airman Shaun Emery

### Staff Sgt. Joshua Walker

**Home station:** Shaw Air Force Base, S.C.

**Unit:** 332nd Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron structures shop

**Hobbies:** Fishing, light construction

**How do you contribute to the mission?**

I provide facility maintenance to the wing so wing members can get their jobs done.

**What is your favorite aspect of deployment?**

The camaraderie that comes with deployment.

**Besides your family, what do you miss back home?**

I miss my privacy.

## Know what this is?

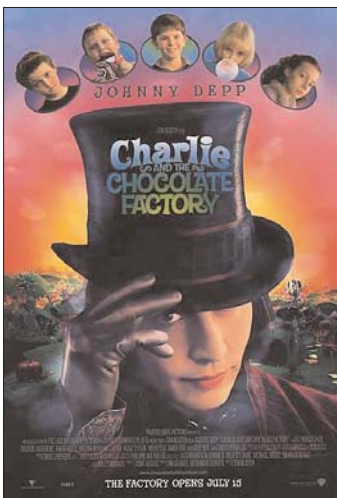


Photo by Senior Airman Tim Beckham

If you can identify the object, send us an e-mail at [redtailflyer@blab.centaf.af.mil](mailto:redtailflyer@blab.centaf.af.mil). The first person with the correct answer wins a \$5 gift certificate courtesy of the 332nd Expeditionary Services Squadron. Last week's photo of a floppy hat vent was first identified by Tech. Sgt. Richard Mester Richard, 332nd Expeditionary Maintenance Squadron.

# Sustainer movie schedule

Schedule is subject to change



### Today

3 p.m. - Star Wars: Episode III  
6 p.m. - Mindhunters  
9 p.m. - Charlie and the Chocolate Factory

### Saturday, July 30

3 p.m. - Fantastic Four  
6 p.m. - Charlie and the Chocolate Factory  
9 p.m. - Mindhunters

### Sunday, July 31

3 p.m. - Unleashed  
6 p.m. - Mindhunters  
9 p.m. - Star Wars: Episode III

### Monday, August 1

3 p.m. - XXX: State of the Union  
6 p.m. - Sahara

9 p.m. - Charlie and the Chocolate Factory

### Tuesday, August 2

3 p.m. - Mindhunters  
6 p.m. - Star Wars: Episode III  
9 p.m. - Charlie and the Chocolate Factory

### Wednesday, August 3

3 p.m. - Monster in Law  
6 p.m. - Mindhunters  
9 p.m. - Kingdom of Heaven

### Thursday, August 4

3 p.m. - Charlie and the Chocolate Factory  
6 p.m. - Star Wars: Episode III  
9 p.m. - Mindhunters

